

Minutes
Delaware Council of Faith-Based Partnerships (DCFBP)
Tuesday, April 1, 2014
1-3 pm
Delaware Department of Transportation Administration Building
800 Bay Road
Dover DE 19901

Attendees: Jen Hill, Michael Beals (vice-chair), Flora McConkie, Max Joseph Wolf, Usman Sandhu, Raina Harper Allen.

Guests: Tina Shockley, Legislative Liaison, Delaware Department of Transportation.

The meeting was called to order by Michael at approx. 1:08 pm.

Presentation on Delaware Department of Transportation. Ms. Shockley provided an overview of the DelDot, which has approx. 2,600 employees and maintains 13,731 miles of highways, 1,580 bridges, 1 ferry, 1,200 signals, over 250,000 signs, etc. They are also involved in Delaware's aviation and nautical transportation. A Delaware Transportation Facts book was provided to Council members.

Michael encouraged DelDot, and all state agencies, to "think differently" as they become aware of the Council and to consider partnership opportunities.

Several possibilities with DelDot were discussed, including:

An annual interfaith service at the Delaware Highway Memorial Garden in Smyrna. The Garden honors all those who have died in highway accidents (DUI, pedestrian, traffic fatalities, etc.). A brick honoring each individual is placed in the Garden, free of charge, to provide a place where loved ones may visit and reflect. There are currently approx. 800 bricks. Delaware is the only state with a memorial to serve all types of highway fatalities. An interfaith service could also be a tool for reminding Delawareans of traffic safety. (A potential service project for a house of worship could be "mapping" the bricks, providing families a convenient way to locate their loved one's memorial brick.)

An interfaith response to highway fatalities, for instance prayer services at the scene of recent incidents, providing support to families.

Houses of worship and faith leaders could be more connected to weather alerts, road conditions, and maintenance schedules that could impact their members. They could make members aware of DelDot resources regarding.

Max suggested that community listening sessions would be helpful to address transportation needs. Tina invited Council members to attend capital transportation program meetings in

September, where the public is provided opportunity to comment on DelDot project lists and make suggestions.

DelDot is open to hosting future Council meetings.

Minutes of March 4, 2014 meeting approved.

Discussion on “next steps” with Department of Correction. Michael asked for Council’s response to and impressions of last month’s meeting.

Max was impressed with the Department’s efforts to listen to needs of inmates and their families. He sensed a new, compassionate approach and an analyzing of needs.

Jen was pleased to learn that cognitive behavior treatment is being better utilized, with programs being unfolded slowly and quietly. She also noted need for middle school mentoring programs to aid in prevention.

Max noted that faith communities need to welcome former prisoners and provide support and assistance during re-entry.

Recognition that change does not occur until an individual wants to change. Hearts have to change before behavior changes.

Raina indicated need for I-ADAPT support and participation in New Castle County.

Council looks forward to standardization of access to facilities for faith leaders.

Michael noted potential partnership opportunities with the new Achievement Center in Wilmington.

Flora will schedule tour of Georgetown facility for September or October meeting, if possible. Ahead of that meeting, Council could approach Department of Correction, asking them to consider potential partnership opportunities.

Update on funding. Usman generously offered a \$4,000 contribution to Council. Suggestion that donations could run through a discretionary fund at a house of worship (Max or Doug’s, for instance). Discussion regarding need for a treasurer, to be responsible for managing donations, accounting, quarterly reports. (Usman’s \$200 cash contribution, given in February, was returned to him. A more formal accounting system is recommended before donations are accepted by Council.)

Update on Emergency Preparedness and Response Workshop to be held Wednesday, June 18, 2014, from 11:30 am to 3 pm. Draft of announcement discussed and suggestions provided by Council.

Upcoming meeting at Delaware Department of Health and Social Services: Doug, Jen, Jeanne and Flora to meet with Secretary Landgraf and her leadership team on Monday, May 5, 2014. Attendees will report at Council's May 6 meeting.

Other business: Michael invited Council to participate in Peace Drums project, which fosters cooperation, builds trust and nurtures peace among Jewish, Christian, and Muslim youth through team work and music. He also discussed his upcoming trip to Israel. Raina suggested that the Council might host a meeting to learn more about the program.

Michael mentioned possibility of partnering with Attorney General's office, particularly their community response team. Michael to inquire regarding.

Next meeting. Tuesday, May 6, 2014, 1-3 pm. (Delaware National Guard).

Meeting adjourned at approx. 3:03 pm.

Submitted by Flora McConkie, DCFBP Secretary, April 24, 2014.